

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 057949

63

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P R 100231Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL ASMARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057949

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, ET

SUBJECT: CISCO II

REF: A. STATE 23740, B. STATE 18849, C. ASMARA 76,
D. ASMARA 213

1. DURING MARCH 8 DISCUSSION OF PLANS FOR HANDLING CISCO
II RELEASE CISCO OFFICIAL REPEATED TO DEPARTMENT COMPANY'S
CONCERN THAT HARRELL MIGHT WANT TO RETURN TO ASMARA FROM
KHARTOUM TO JOIN HIS WIFE, WHO, OFFICIAL SAID, WOULD PROB-
ABLY BE RELUCTANT TO LEAVE ETHIOPIA. UNDER THESE CIRCUM-
STANCES, WOULD APPRECIATE CONSULATE'S INFORMING MRS.
HARRELL THAT FOR HIS OWN WELFARE HARRELL SHOULD NOT RETURN
TO ETHIOPIA AND THAT SHE SHOULD PLAN TO JOIN HIM OUTSIDE
THE COUNTRY. BAKER SHOULD BE ASKED TO REINFORCE THIS ADVICE.

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PAGE 02 STATE 057949

2. CISCO HAS NOW ADVISED THAT IT IS PLANNING TO HAVE CHARLES BECK, A CISCO OFFICIAL IN TEXAS, RATHER THAN BAKER, TRAVEL TO KHARTOUM TO HANDLE RELEASE. (BAKER WAS INFORMED OF CHANGE OF PLANS ON MARCH 9.) BECK EXPECTS TO ARRIVE IN KHARTOUM ON MARCH 14, WHERE HE WILL BE PREPARED TO REMAIN UNTIL MARCH 20. IF CISCO II NOT RELEASED BY THAT DATE HE PLANS TO PROCEED TO ASMARA TO TAKE PART IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE NAVY ON THE KAGNEW CONTRACT. BECK STATES THAT IF

WORD IS RECEIVED PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE US THAT THE RELEASE HAS BEEN DEFERRED, HE WILL POSTPONE HIS TRIP.

3. RE KHARTOUM-FRANKFURT AIR TICKETS FOR CISCO II, BECK SAID HE WILL PURCHASE THEM ON ARRIVAL IN KHARTOUM OR REIMBURSE EMBASSY IF THEY ALREADY PURCHASED. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY KHARTOUM'S MAKING HOTEL RESERVATIONS FOR BECK.

4. BECK FURTHER STATES THAT IN VIEW OF HIS NEED TO PROCEED FROM KHARTOUM TO ASMARA, HE WILL PROBABLY NOT BE ABLE TO ESCORT CISCO II TO FRANKFURT. BAKER WOULD ALSO BE NEEDED FOR ASMARA TALKS WITH NAVY AND THUS UNABLE TO ACT AS ESCORT. POSSIBILITY THUS STILL EXISTS THAT EMBASSY KHARTOUM MAY HAVE TO PROVIDE ESCORT OFFICER FOR KHARTOUM-FRANKFURT LEG OF CISCO II JOURNEY. KISSINGER

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